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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,929	01/11/2005	Yuuko Oono	SON-2787	4819

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EXAMINER

SINGH, HIRDEPAL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/520,929	OONO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hirdepal Singh	2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the Amendment filed on November 28, 2007. Claims 1-3 are pending and have been considered below.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed November 28, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicants argues that the combination of the prior art of record doesn't teach or disclose all the limitations and the "claimed invention employs two separate means by which resynchronization can be triggered. This allows the claimed apparatus to recover the proper synchronization signal under a variety of circumstances and reduces the duration of improper synchronization. At best, Shim may arguably teach using either a predetermined number of generated sync signals, (Shim 2:16-20), or the so-called "sync noise canceller," (Shim 3:1-5), for resetting the synchronization means. (See also Shim Fig. 5). Shim fails to teach simultaneously using two different means for resetting the synchronization means. Thus the relied upon references fail to teach or suggest all of the recited claim limitations and do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

MPEP § 2143".

4. Examiner's response: based on the prior art of record Shim et al. (US 6,560,302) and Shimizume et al. (US 4,979,192) the Applicant's arguments are respectfully

traversed. Applicant's opinion that claimed invention employs two separate means by which resynchronization can be triggered is actually a resynchronization means for outputting said synchronization signal detected by said synchronization signal detection means as a reproducing synchronization signal according to a judgment result of said judgment means, which is discloses by Shim (column 3, lines 30-49, sync insertion and detection device sets a sync protection window, if sync detection signal is generated during the protection window then the sync detection signal is the sync signal, otherwise i.e. if it is not at a predetermined time or position the sync insertion signal is generated). Therefore, the rejection to the claims is not withdrawn. Also the newly added limitations are not novel over the combination of Shim et al. (US 6,560,302) in view of Shimizume et al. (US 4,979,192) further in view of Kameyama (US 6,693,919)..

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities: The amended claims 1 and 3 have limitations separated by commas (,); however, the limitation in the claims should be separated by semicolons (;). In claim 1, please replace the comma (,) at the end of line 5 with a semicolon (;) and so on for all limitations in claims 1 and 3.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shim et al. (US 6,560,302) in view of Shimizume et al. (US 4,979,192) and further in view of Kameyama (US 6,693,919).

Regarding Claim 1:

Shim et al discloses a synchronization signal detection apparatus (figure 3) characterized by comprising:

interpolation means (232 in figure 5) for interpolating a synchronization signal generated according to detection timing of said synchronization signal detected by said synchronization signal detection means as a reproducing synchronization signal when said synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal (column 3, lines 52-55; column 4, lines 30-38) within a predetermined detection period;

judgment mean (224, 232 and 234 in figure 5) for performing judgment about whether said synchronization signal continuously detected by said synchronization signal detection means is at normal timing or not under a predetermined condition (214,

216 and 218 in figure 3; column 3, lines 60-67 "the switching circuit's output is in accordance with the defect i.e. whether the defect is detected or not i.e. the sync signal is detected or not") after a start of the interpolation of said synchronization signal by said interpolation means; and

resynchronization means (230 in figure 5) for outputting said synchronization signal detected by said synchronization signal detection means as a reproducing synchronization signal according to a judgment result (column 4, lines 39-48; "the sync signal outputted by 230 in figure 5 is in accordance with the judgment if it is the sync insertion/interpolation signal or sync detection signal") of said judgment means.

Shim et al discloses all of the subject matter as described above except for specifically teaching (1) synchronization signal detection means for inputting a signal formed by a frame in accordance with a predetermined format to detect a synchronization signal to be inserted into said frame; (2) forward guard counter means for measuring a duration during which the synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within the predetermined detection period; (3) resynchronization means for outputting said synchronization signal as a reproducing synchronization signal according to judgment or when the duration measured by said forward guard counter means exceeds a predetermined time period.

However, regarding item (1) above, Shimizume et al in same filed of endeavor discloses synchronization signal detection means (34 in figure 3) for inputting a signal formed by a frame in accordance with a predetermined format to detect a synchronization signal to be inserted into said frame (column 3, lines 55-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a synchronization signal detector as taught by Shimizume in Shim system in order to get the information whether frame synchronizing signal is present to generate a window function to insert or interpolate a synchronization signal in case there is lack of frame synchronizing signal, the synchronization signal detector makes the synchronizing signal detection and interpolation stable.

Regarding items (2) and (3) above, Kameyama in the same field of endeavor discloses a method and system for frame synchronization of received frame data with a predetermined frame synchronization pattern, where a forward guard counter (12 in figure 5; column 7, lines 18-25) for measuring a duration during which the synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within the predetermined detection (column 4, lines 5-24, the forward protection count can be set by the user as a predetermined value and the system go from synchronize state to hunting state if the protection stage count is not met) period; and regarding item (3) resynchronization means for outputting said synchronization signal as a reproducing synchronization signal according to judgment or when the duration measured by said forward guard counter means exceeds a predetermined time period (column 3, lines 30-39, when fame sync pattern is not detected consecutively for forward count i.e. the user defined or predetermined number, the system go back to hunting for synchronization or resynchronization signal again).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a forward guard counter as taught by Kameyama in the Shim

system in order to give the user the freedom to set the forward guard counter value as required by avoiding making the count value low which make system go to hunt or resynchronization state due to transmission errors or if the count value is high the system becomes slow as it takes long time to go for resynchronization.

Regarding Claim 2:

Shim et al discloses all of the subject matter as described above and further discloses that judgment means is configured to perform judgment about whether each of said synchronization signal is at normal timing or not;

by measuring an interval of detection timing of said synchronization signal continuously detected (column 4, lines 50-62; "the counter counts the bits during sync detection, comparator compares the count from register to normal sync signal") by said synchronization signal detection means; and

by performing judgment about whether said interval of detection timing coincides with a predetermined interval and a predetermined times or more (column 4, lines 65-67; column 5, lines 1-18) in accordance with an input signal format.

Regarding Claim 3:

Shim et al discloses a synchronization signal detection method characterized by comprising the steps of executing:

an interpolation process for interpolating a synchronization signal generated according to detection timing of the synchronization signal detected by the

synchronization signal detection process as a reproducing synchronization signal when no synchronization signal has been able to be detected within a predetermined detection period (column 3, lines 52-55; column 4, lines 30-38) by the synchronization signal detection process;

a judgment process for performing judgment about whether the synchronization signal continuously detected by the synchronization signal detection process is at normal timing or not under a predetermined condition (column 3, lines 60-67 "the switching circuit's output is in accordance with the defect i.e. whether the defect is detected or not i.e. the sync signal is detected or not") after a start of the interpolation of the synchronization signal by the interpolation process; and

resynchronization process for outputting the synchronization signal detected by the synchronization signal detection process as the reproducing synchronization signal (column 4, lines 39-48) according to a judgment result of the judgment process.

Shim et al discloses all of the subject matter as described above except for specifically teaching (1) synchronization signal detection process for inputting a signal formed by a frame in accordance with a predetermined format to detect a synchronization signal to be inserted into said frame; (2) forward guard counter process for measuring a duration during which the synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within the predetermined detection period; (3) resynchronization process for outputting said synchronization signal as a reproducing synchronization signal according to judgment or when the duration measured by said forward guard counter means exceeds a predetermined time period.

However, regarding item (1) above, Shimizume et al in same field of endeavor discloses synchronization signal detection means (34 in figure 3) for inputting a signal formed by a frame in accordance with a predetermined format to detect a synchronization signal to be inserted into said frame (column 3, lines 55-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a synchronization signal detector in order to get the information whether frame synchronizing signal is present to generate a window function to insert or interpolate a synchronization signal in case there is lack of frame synchronizing signal, the synchronization signal detector makes the synchronizing signal detection and interpolation stable.

Regarding items (2) and (3) above, Kameyama in the same field of endeavor discloses a method and system for frame synchronization of received frame data with a predetermined frame synchronization pattern, where a forward guard counter (12 in figure 5; column 7, lines 18-25) for measuring a duration during which the synchronization signal detection means is unable to detect any synchronization signal within the predetermined detection (column 4, lines 5-24, the forward protection count can be set by the user as a predetermined value and the system go from synchronize state to hunting state if the protection stage count is not met) period; and regarding item (3) resynchronization means for outputting said synchronization signal as a reproducing synchronization signal according to judgment or when the duration measured by said forward guard counter means exceeds a predetermined time period (column 3, lines 30-39, when fame sync pattern is not detected consecutively for forward count i.e. the user

defined or predetermined number, the system go back to hunting for synchronization or resynchronization signal again).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a forward guard counter as taught by Kameyama in the Shim system in order to give the user the freedom to set the forward guard counter value as required by avoiding making the count value low which make system go to hunt or resynchronization state due to transmission errors or if the count value is high the system becomes slow as it takes long time to go for resynchronization.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hirdepal Singh whose telephone number is 571-270-1688. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (Alternate Friday Off)8:00AM-5:00PMEST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shuwang Liu can be reached on 571-272-3036. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HS
January 23, 2008



SHUWANG LIU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER